COTTON CHATS

DRAPER COMPANY, HOPEDALE, MASS.

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

Extract From

DAILY CONSULAR AND TRADE REPORTS

ISSUED BY THE BUREAU OF MANUFACTURES, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR

Washington, D. C.

WOMEN IN JAPANESE INDUSTRIES.

[From Consul George N. West, Kobe.]

An interesting statement has been made by the Director of the Industrial Bureau of Japan, which shows how far women are responsible for building up Japanese industries. This report shows that Japanese women's labor as an industrial factor is very great, as their influence is keenly felt in almost every industry.

Commencing with the production of raw silk, which occupies over 50 per cent. of Japan's total export trade, female labor largely enters into the manufacture of habutae, cotton yarn, and other staples of export. The extensive employment of female labor may be due to its comparatively low price, but in many instances work can be done better and more effectively by women than by men. The percentage of women engaged in the industries of Japan is stated to be as follows as compared with men: **Men employed, 34 per cent.; women employed, 66 per cent.,** showing that there are nearly twice as many women as men employed. There are usually fixed hours (12) as to the time for daily employment.

In spinning raw silk, floss silk, cotton refining, weaving, knitting, and braid manufacture, there were employed a total of 373,284 persons in 1908, classified as follows: Males over 14 years of age, 40,789; under 14 years of age, 2,475; total number of males, 43,264.

Females over 14 years of age, 296,424; females under 14 years of age, 33,596; total number of females, 330,020.

The wages paid to males over 14 years of age ranged from 51 sen, (25 cents) per day, the highest rate, to 30 sen, (15 cents) per day. Males under 14 years of age received from 20 sen (10 cents) per day to as low as 12 sen (6 cents) per day.

Females over 14 years of age received from 28 sen (14 cents) per day the highest, down to 20 sen (10 cents) per day. Females under 14 years of age received from 18 sen (9 cents) per day down to 10 sen (5 cents) per day. From this report it will be seen that the wages paid to factory operatives are very small indeed. This fact is also applicable to all other lines of industrial labor.

It is not surprising, therefore, that Japan's foreign export trade has increased from $70,000,000 in 1891 to $450,000,000 in 1910, as stated by a well-known financier of Japan, the increase during 1910 over that of 1909 being given as 100,000,000 yen or $50,000,000. On the completion of the Panama Canal the trade of Japan with the United States and northern Europe will undoubtedly be further increased.

FIFTY-TWO ADVERTISEMENTS FOR COTTON MILL HELP

appeared in a recent number of the Mill News of Charlotte, N. C. The most of the openings are for several families each and some call for from 25 to 50 operatives. It would be safe to estimate that 500 or more people are needed to fill the situations. On the other side there are just seven advertisements, representing one person each, of people looking for employment.

With a general shortage of help under present business conditions, the importance of labor-saving machinery in prosperous times can not be over-estimated. Furthermore, there are a large number of new cotton mills both north and south, not yet in operation, which must obtain help from some source or stand idle. In this dilemma it will not be a question of choice as to nationality and experience, but rather of availability. Here again, the advantage of

machinery that is automatic comes to the foreground. It is an easier problem to educate unskilled employees to operate twenty-four Northrop Looms each on a plain weave than to operate one-third that number of common looms each on the same goods.

FUTURE LABOR SUPPLY OF SOUTHERN MILLS

The source of the future supply of labor for the cotton mills is of prime importance, not only from the standpoint of the industry itself, but also from the point of view of general social and political conditions in the South.

The scarcity of labor has not been so great a problem during the past three years owing to the general industrial depression and consequent falling off in the demand for cotton goods during the years 1908-1909, coupled with the recent rise in the price of raw cotton and decline in the quotations for finished products. With a return to normal conditions, however, and a further development of the industry in the South the labor situation will undoubtedly become as acute as it was during the summer of 1907.

From the standpoint of the manufacturer, the labor situation will probably be still more unfavorable for the reason that the mill operatives originally recruited from mountainous and agricultural sections have made progress toward the consciousness of their own industrial importance in which quality they were formerly entirely lacking. As other industrial opportunities, offering more attractive remuneration and conditions of employment, arise they will leave the mills and cause a depletion of the present operating forces. The manufacturer will probably be, therefore, confronted not only with an inadequate labor supply to meet the growing needs of the industry, but also will face the problem of a decline in the present operating force.

The members of recent immigration from the South and East of Europe, principally South Italians, Poles, Greeks, Turks and Armenians, have found extensive employment in New England and have been and still are displacing the native American and older British and German operatives. These immigrant races have been

without previous experience abroad and their employment has been made possible only by the development of automatic machinery and mechanical devices which have eliminated to a large extent the element of skill formerly required of cotton mill operatives. Such a class of labor could readily be used in the South. Probably it could be employed more satisfactorily there than in New England for the reason that automatic machinery is more extensively used in the South.

(From The Textile Manufacturer, Charlotte, N. C., May 18, 1911.)

ABOUT AN ACRE OF NORTHROP LOOMS IN A MODEL WEAVE ROOM.

We illustrate one of the latest and best weave rooms in the country, recently completed by the Chicopee Manufacturing Co., Chicopee Falls, Mass. It is filled with an equipment of Northrop Looms. This room is provided with the most improved systems of lighting, heating and ventilating and is a model both from a manufacturing and sanitary standpoint.